

Stories this week include:

District Stories

- School board public work session and regular board meeting - Tuesday, September 20
- District receives “Urgent Repairs Grant” for Pioneer Middle School boiler
- Yellowhawk bridge project making progress on Reser Road
- District partners with The Moms’ Network for free Parent Workshop Series
- Walla Walla Kids Read 2012
- Caution urged with pre-college exam solicitations
- District students haul in hardware at Chamber Business Awards Showcase
- Washington Students Lead Nation Again in SAT Scores
- Curriculum Department announces new Administrative Assistant
- Superintendent’s Patron Tour program invites community members to visit schools

School Stories

- Edison Bicycle Rodeo Saturday - Open to the Public
- Green Park launches new website
- District students ride bikes to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research
- Walla Walla High School Academic Lab now open
- Big Blue Weekend brings Walla Walla High School students and staff together to build positive relationships
- Key Club collecting food at tonight’s football game at Borleske Stadium at 7:30 p.m.
- Big Blue Boosters plan football game Free Tailgate Party Friday, September 16
- Walla Walla High School plans “Sudsathon” car wash
- Surprise call to the principal’s office nets softball team championship rings

Community Stories

- Camp Fire plans Ribbon Cutting and Open House
- Sheriff’s “Round Table” Community Meetings
- Darold Bigger to present Religion and War presentation during Walla Walla Exchange Club meeting Monday

District Stories

School board public work session and regular board meeting - Tuesday, September 20

- 5 p.m.: Public Work Session - Discussion on preschool facility, district calendar and 2011-2015 Strategic Plan
- 6:30 p.m.: Regular School Board meeting
- 364 S. Park St. (district board room)
- Both meetings open to the public

District receives “Urgent Repairs Grant” for Pioneer Middle School boiler

Walla Walla Public Schools recently received a \$100,000 “Urgent Repairs Grant” from the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for a new boiler at Pioneer Middle School. Total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$400,000. Installation is expected to happen during the summer of 2012.

“The new boilers will be more energy efficient and will allow us to heat part of the building at a time instead of all or nothing,” said district Chief Financial Officer Pat Johnston. “The boilers date from the original construction in 1950 and are well beyond their expected life.”

Yellowhawk bridge project making progress on Reser Road

This week the new bridge structure spanning Yellowhawk Creek on Reser Road is being installed. Concrete crews completed retaining walls and footings, according to an update from Walla Walla County.

“We are eager to have the underground work complete for the waterline and stormdrain so we can get gravel placed on the roadway,” said Walla Walla County Public Works representative Aaron Grimm.

The project to improve Reser Road from Howard to Fern Street is expected to be completed in early December if weather permits. Follow the project online by clicking on the Reser Road project button on the district’s home page: www.wwps.org

Additional Information: Aaron Grimm - Project Engineer
509.524.2728 - Direct / 509.520.0548 - Cell

District partners with The Moms’ Network for free Parent Workshop Series

Health and Nutrition for Moms

- Tuesday, Sept. 20 @ 7 p.m.
- YMCA
- Dan Bruner, MAcOM, LAc, Advance Health Clinic
- Free child care available and translation services

Stability & Sustainability in the Home

- Tuesday, October 11 @ 7 p.m.
- YMCA
- Jenifer Clark
- Free child care available and translation services

Your Child’s Health

- Wednesday, November 9 @ 7 p.m.
- YMCA
- Dr. Trent Rodgers, Pediatrician, Walla Walla Clinic
- Free child care available and translation services

Reserve your spot by contacting Beth Swanson at 509.301.7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com

Walla Walla Kids Read 2012

In its fifth year, Walla Walla Kids Read 2012 will host Andrea Davis Pinkney and Tony Diterlizzi, two of America's most beloved children's authors. Mr. Diterlizzi and Ms. Davis-Pinkney will entertain and educate over five thousand local students. Dates for the event are Monday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Walla Walla Kids Read is dedicated to nurturing and encouraging young readers and supporting our local educators in creating lifelong readers. The primary goal is to provide a nationally known author presentation to every K-5th grade student in the Walla Walla valley every year. Walla Walla Kids Read will include large scale events at Corder Hall on the Whitman College campus, along with a community event on the evening of April 17.

Founder and chair, Patrick Carman, said of the event. "I'm so excited to host Andrea Davis Pinkney and Tony Diterlizzi. They know how to get kids excited about books! The 2012 events will continue to build on Walla Walla's national reputation as a model for community literacy."

Tony Diterlizzi: 3rd and 5th grade

New York Times bestselling author and illustrator, Tony DiTerlizzi, is the creator of the wildly popular middle-grade series, The Spiderwick Chronicles (with Holly Black), which has sold millions of copies, been adapted into a feature film, and has been translated in over thirty countries. Mr. DiTerlizzi also writes fanciful picture books like Jimmy Zangwow's Out-of-this-World Moon Pie Adventure, Adventure of Meno (with his wife, Angela) and The Spider & The Fly (a Caldecott Honor book), and chapter books like Kenny and The Dragon and The Search for WondLa.

Andrea Davis Pinkney: K-2nd grade

Andrea's picture books include Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down, a Parenting Publication Gold Medal winner, winner of the Jane Addams Book Award, the Carter G. Woodson Award for historical works for young people, the Anne Izard Storyteller's Award, and the Flora G. Stieglitz Strauss Award for Nonfiction; Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride, a Jane Addams Honor Book and School Library Journal "Best Book of the Year," the Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters, which also won the Carter G. Woodson Award for historical works for young people; and Duke Ellington, a Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

The Walla Walla Kids Read Team

- Chair: Patrick Carman - Author and founder of Walla Walla Kids Read
- School Liaison, Educational Resources: Michelle Shaul - Green Park Elementary Librarian - mshaul@wwps.org
- Events Coordinators / Community Liaisons: Elizabeth George – Librarian, Walla Walla Public Library - egeorge@ci.walla-walla.wa.us / Melissa Gardner - melissagardner@charter.net
- School Principal Liaison: Mike Lambert - Principal Green Park Elementary - mlambert@wwps.org
- Author Liaison: Squire Broel - Artist - broelsa@my180.net

More is available online at: www.wallawallakidsread.com

Caution urged with pre-college exam solicitations

The district has been notified regarding parents getting calls from solicitors attempting to sell college pre-exam products. These are often scams. Walla Walla Public Schools strongly recommends parents not respond or purchase from unsolicited offers, especially related to school services.

We have learned of scams over the years which have impacted our families. We encourage parents and students to check with school officials in advance of purchasing materials or services to ensure they are credible and aligned with the appropriate learning targets. Please contact the school district if you receive a call of this nature. Contact Communications Director at 526.6716 or by email at mhiggins@wwps.org.

District students haul in hardware at Chamber Business Awards Showcase

Congratulations to several district students for receiving honors at Wednesday's Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards ceremony held at Baker Boyer Bank's main branch office.

Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Awards:

1st Place: Jessica-Anne McGuire - Lincoln High School, 9th grade student
- Jessica sells herbs and other products at the Farmer's Market

2nd Place: Allison Wanichek - Prospect Point, 5th grade
- Allison organized a lemonade stand to raise money for Juvenile Arthritis. She raised \$3000 for the cause.

3rd Place: Samantha Case - Wa-Hi, 11th grade and Tristan Case, Sager Middle School, 7th grade
- They run a business at the Farmer's Market named "Time to Eat." Their omelets and smoothies are made with all natural ingredients.

Nominees: Jared, Ethan and Summer Kelnhofer - Homelink
- The Kelnhofer's sell greeting cards at the Farmer's Market.

Walla Walla Public Schools was nominated for a Smart Business Partner Award for environmentally sound business practices incorporated into the new Support Services facility. Congratulations to Walla Walla Community College for receiving this year's honor for its energy conservation and sustainable living practices.

Washington Students Lead Nation Again in SAT Scores

State students earn the highest average score where more than 50 percent of eligible students participate in the college-entrance exam

OLYMPIA — For the ninth consecutive year, Washington students' average score on the three major SAT exams (reading, writing and math) was the highest in the nation among states in which more than half of the eligible students took the tests, according to figures released by the College Board today.

The ranking is based on students taking the SAT who were 12th graders in the Class of 2011. Nearly 39,000 Washington students took the SAT last school year, including 33,085 public school students, a large participation increase of 13 percent, or nearly 4,000 students, from 2010.

Washington students' average combined score in reading, math and writing was 520, higher than all states in which at least 30 percent of its students tested. The percentage of students tested is significant because generally the more students who test, the lower their scores. However, Washington has bucked that trend through most of the past decade.

New Hampshire had the second highest average score of 519.6, followed by Massachusetts (516), Oregon (513), Vermont (512.6) and Connecticut (511.6). Washington had the nation's highest score in math (529), was tied for first with New Hampshire in reading (523) and was fourth in writing (508) of states with 50 percent or more participation.

"Results like these show our education system is working," State Superintendent Randy Dorn said. "Our teachers and students are doing a tremendous job. I just hope the Legislature and governor understand that results like these will certainly level off as our state budget worsens and we continue to cut the education budget."

Full story: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/SATScores.aspx>

Curriculum Department announces new Administrative Assistant

Kim Locken will transfer from the Special Programs Department to the Curriculum Department to assume the Administrative Assistant position. Locken replaces Maryelyn Hebel who recently retired.

Superintendent's Patron Tour program invites community members to visit schools

Superintendent Mick Miller is continuing his Superintendent's Patron Tour program Thursday, Sept. 22 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Guests will visit Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools as part of the program.

Miller's goal with the program is to build relationships, learn about each other and listen. Patron Tour guests will meet with Superintendent Miller, tour schools and conclude with lunch and a debriefing. If you are interested in participating in a Patron Tour, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins: 509.526.6716 or by email: mhiggins@wwps.org

Superintendent's Patron Tour Schedule

- Thursday, September 22
- Time: 8 a.m. to 12 noon
- Location: District Office (364 S. Park St.)
- Tour Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School
- Lunch with Superintendent Miller

School Stories

Edison Bicycle Rodeo Saturday - Open to the Public

Edison Elementary is planning a Bicycle Rodeo Saturday, Sept. 17 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. This event is open to the public. The Whitman College Bicycle Team will support the event which will feature riding activities and courses, bicycle tune-ups and flat repairs and free helmets. Two free bikes will also be given away courtesy of Allegro Cycling. Please join us Saturday morning at Edison!

Green Park launches new website

This week Green Park Elementary launched a new web site. The site features upcoming events, PTA announcements, a principal's section and much more. Visit Green Park online at: www.greenparkelementary.org

District students ride bikes to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research

Sonia Calzaretta, a 10th grader at Walla Walla High School and her brother Gus Calzaretta, an 8th grade student at Garrison Middle School, joined their father Dan Calzaretta on a 150 mile bike ride as part of a fundraiser for Multiple Sclerosis. Dan is an Explorer Program teacher at Pioneer Middle School.

The fundraiser took place on the Trail of the Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho. Sonia and Gus's mother, Allison Kirby, has Multiple Sclerosis. Their aunt also has this disease. The students raised approximately \$1200 as team "Shut Up and Pedal." See more at: http://bikewai.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BIKE_WAI_homepage

Walla Walla High School Academic Lab now open

- Academic Lab: Monday-Thursday
- 2 to 4:10 p.m. (7th and 8th period)
- Walla Walla High School Library

The lab is a place where students can get the help they need in all academic subject areas. This year, coming to the lab is completely voluntary for students, so there will be no referral process as there has been in the past. Volunteer peer tutors from Wa-Hi and volunteer tutors from Whitman College, Walla Walla University and Walla Walla Community College will be available daily to assist students. Students are welcome to come seek out tutors for one-on-one help in this collaborative learning setting.

Additional information:

Brian Kitamura

WSU Gear Up – Walla Walla High School

Academic Lab Coordinator

bkitamura@wwps.org

Big Blue Weekend brings Walla Walla High School students and staff together to build positive relationships

- September 30 to October 2
- Location: Washington Family Ranch, Antelope, OR
- Cost: \$75 (limited \$50 scholarships available)
- Registration forms available in the ASB office due by 9/19

Donate or volunteer:

Who: 325+ students, 32 staff chaperones, and 30 community volunteer “work crew” members
What: BBW is a weekend retreat that helps break down social barriers and build community
When: September 30 - October 2, 2011
Where: Washington Family Ranch, Antelope Oregon
How: Contact Carina Stillman cstillman@wwps.org or (509)527-3020 for more information.

Key Club collecting food at tonight’s football game at Borleske Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

The Key Club at Wa-Hi, in conjunction with the Realtor Association and Blue Mountain Action Council, is sponsoring a canned food/non perishable items food drive. The goal is to match the combined weight of the football team -- 10,568 pounds! Walla Walla High School football fans are encouraged to bring canned food to tonight’s game.

“We are asking everyone to get involved to help us meet the needs of the local food banks,” said Shelley Mann, Key Club Advisor. “If you will bring your canned goods to the entrance gate Friday night we will have Key Clubbers there to accept your donations. We will be collecting food at each home football game.”

Key Club student leaders Lauren McClanahan, Alyson Ambler, Paige Moeller, Rob Ferenz and Nick Peasley are helping Mann organize the effort.

Big Blue Boosters plan football game Free Tailgate Party Friday, September 16

- Members, families and district staff invited to attend - FREE
- Friday, September 16 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Borleske Stadium near former City Pool
- Great food, music and conversation

Big Blue Boosters of Walla Walla invite all members, families and Walla Walla Public Schools staff to this year’s annual Fall Sports Tailgate Party Friday, September 16, 5:30 p.m. at Borleske Stadium near the former city swimming pool. New this year, live music by “Jacob’s Weekend.”

“We invite you to come & enjoy great music, great food and great conversation,” said Anne North-Jones, Big Blue Boosters board member. “The tailgate party is a perfect time for members of our community to visit with Big Blue Boosters members and find out what our club does for our Wa-Hi Blue Devil athletes. We will also have memorabilia for sale, offered by T-Walla Walla by Original Design.”

North-Jones says this is the organization’s last push for membership this Fall Sports Season and the group’s biggest social event of the year. There will be membership information available and opportunities to learn how Big Blue Boosters support ‘ALL’ the Blue Devil sports teams. Learn more online at: bigblueboosters.org

Big Blue Boosters of Walla Walla “True Blue Fridays”

Wear your BLUE every Friday this year – supporting all sports and all teams at WWHS. Big Blue will be selling “BLUE & WHITE - THAT’S RIGHT” T-shirts for \$5 next Friday, September 16 at the WWHS Commons during lunch and at the varsity football game.

“Our purpose is to get everybody in blue supporting all Wa-Hi Blue Devil sports,” North-Jones said.

If you would like to sell shirts at another sport event please contact, Big Blue member Anne North-Jones 386-8268, or e-mail annenorth@charter.net.

Walla Walla High School plans “Sudsathon” car wash

- Choir Sudsathon
- Saturday, September 24
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- NAPA (E. Isaacs)
- Information: Norbert Rossi, Director of Choral Activities (509-527-3020 / nrossi@wwps.org)

Surprise call to the principal’s office nets softball team championship rings

Friday morning softball players from the 2011 Walla Walla High School state championship softball team were surprised to get called to the principal’s office.

Little did they know their long-awaited championship rings were waiting for them to pick up. Team coaches Jerry Humphreys and Arch McMie were in attendance along with school administrators to join in the fun. The Blue Devils did not give up a single run in last spring’s state tournament. This is the first softball state title in Wa-Hi history and the Blue Devils are the first team in the Big 9 to win a softball state title.

Community Stories

Camp Fire plans Ribbon Cutting and Open House

Stop by and check out the new Camp Fire facility. Camp Fire USA provides many positive activities for families and children, including the afterschool camp and the Summer in the Park program.

- Wednesday, Sept. 21
- 4 to 6 p.m.
- 414 S. Park St.
- Open to the public

Sheriff’s “Round Table” Community Meeting planned later this month

Sheriff John Turner encourages staff, parents, students and community members to attend and learn what’s new with the Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Department.

Walla Walla & College Place Meeting

- Thursday, September 29
- Walla Walla High School Commons
- 5:30 p.m.

Darold Bigger to present Religion and War presentation during Walla Walla Exchange Club meeting Monday

Darold Bigger will give a half hour presentation “Religion and War: Post 9/11 Military Chaplains” at the Walla Walla Exchange Club, Marcus Whitman Hotel and Convention Center on Sept. 19 at 12:30. This program is free and open to the public.

Darold Bigger spent three decades as a Navy Chaplain, reaching the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half) and was Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains for Reserve Matters when he retired in 2004. In this position, Darold helped those affected by 9/11 heal their emotional wounds and helped service members in the resulting wars grapple with difficult moral challenges. Currently, Darold is Professor of Theology and Social Work at Walla Walla University, with an academic interest in the place of forgiveness in human psychology. He is a licensed marriage and family therapist and holds a PhD from the Claremont School of Theology.